

The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek
This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216
Compton, LEEK, Staffordshire, ST13 5NH
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**“Our vision is to be a Catholic Parish living Christ’s command,
‘Love one another as I have loved you’.**

Saturday 28 May

Public Mass and live-stream

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, *Communications Sunday*

Acts 7: 55-60; Ps 96; Apocalypse 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20; John 17: 20-26
2.30pm For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 29 May

Public Mass and live-stream

10am Gary Leggett
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 30 May

Public Mass and live-stream

Easter Feria

Acts 19: 1-8; Ps 67; John 16: 29-33
10am John James Allen RIP (HK)

Tuesday 31 May

Public Mass and live-stream

Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Romans 12: 9-16; Isaiah 12; Luke 1: 39-56
10am Holy Souls (HB)

Wednesday 1 June

No Mass

Memorial of St Justin, Martyr

Acts 20: 28-38; Ps 67; John 17: 11-19

Thursday 2 June

Public Mass and live-stream

Easter Feria

Acts 22: 30; 6-11; Ps 15; John 17: 20-26
11am Mass for HM Elizabeth II

Friday 3 June

Public Mass and live-stream

Memorial of Ss Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs

Acts 25: 13-21; Ps 102; John 21: 15-19
11am Mary Lowe RIP
3pm Sacred Heart Devotions

Saturday 4 June

Public Mass and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church.

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST, *Day of Prayer for the Church*

Genesis 11: 1-9; Ps 103; Romans 8: 22-27; John 7: 37-39
2.30pm For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 5 June

Public Mass and live-stream

Acts 2: 1-11; Ps 103; Romans 8: 8-17; John 14: 15-16, 23-26

10am Joan Greenwood RIP
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Parish Priest

Parish Administrator

St Mary’s Catholic Academy

Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle

Safeguarding Rep

Fr Martin Pratt

Mrs Geraldine Duffy-Jentz

Mrs G Turner

Mrs R Waugh

Appointment pending

Archdiocese of Birmingham

NSPCC

Mrs M Lawton

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The Pope’s Prayer Intention for June: For families; We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

Please pray for the sick: Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Brian Dale, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, David Wright, Janusz Szura and those who are in self-isolation and have been diagnosed with Covid-19.

Due to data protection legislation, in order for a name to be printed in this newsletter, the consent of the person who is unwell needs to be given.

Anniversaries: Matthew Rushton; Gary Leggett; Victor Hambleton; Bernard Spencer; Evelyn Fitchett; Ewa Junasziw; Katy Pickford; Igor Glonski; Norman Yates; Martin Vincent Burke; Patrick Gerard Watters; Patricia Croasdale; Mary Elizabeth (Molly) Keates; Derrick John Moss; Gertrude Maria Lucia Boydon; Sister M Gabriel I.B.V.M; Selina Carding; Mark Beatty; Margaret Bettie Wheatley; Harold Frith; William Carding

And the Spirit and the Bride say,

COME

Revelation 22:17

Dear friends,

Next Sunday will be Pentecost Sunday – it will be great to see you – you will be most welcome!

I invite you to support the return to weekly Sunday Mass which begins next Sunday, Pentecost Sunday. One of the great identifiers of Catholics is the Sunday Obligation: the wish that the Church has for each of its members to take part in Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. Since the beginning of the pandemic, this obligation has not been in force, but will be from next weekend. Next Sunday, we will welcome Bishop David who will lead our celebration.

After Mass, we shall have our first social since the beginning of the pandemic. It will take place in the narthex and avenue. If you are planning to come, could you sign the list at the back of church, please? If you have told me verbally, please sign the list at the back of church.

I am incredibly grateful to those who have donated snacks and drinks. There have been some amazing offers of baking cakes. I am incredibly grateful for these kind-hearted offers. On this occasion, it was thought prudent to purchase packaged snacks to minimise the handling of food at this time.

I know that some people still don't feel safe. It is for this reason that the Catholic Church in her wisdom and compassion teaches us that when someone is prevented from being at Mass due to illness, caring for the sick, and legitimate fear, there is no breach of the Sunday Obligation.

I look forward to welcoming you back to our beautiful church. You will be most welcome. It will be great to see you after the last two extraordinary years. While there are no legal restrictions in place, we want to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible. So we ask that:

- Use the hand sanitizer as you arrive at and leave the church.
- Please consider wearing a face covering while in church, as an act of charity to those who remain vulnerable or return home to vulnerable relatives.
- A number of benches still have cordons for those who wish to keep a physical distance and the church will be ventilated.

Let's get ready for Pentecost which is one of the three most important days in the Christian calendar.

- Let's be at Mass – Saturday at 230pm, Sunday at 10am and let's go to Confession – Saturdays 10am – 1030am or on request.
- Let's pray for 5 minutes every day. As we prepare for Pentecost let's use this prayer written by St John Henry Newman to St Philip Neri:

O my dear and holy Patron, Philip, I put myself into thy hands, and for the love of Jesus, for that love's sake, which chose thee and made thee a saint, I implore thee to pray for me, that, as He has brought thee to heaven, so in due time He may take me to heaven also. And I ask of thee especially to gain for me a true devotion such as thou hadst to the Holy Ghost, the Third Person in the Ever-blessed Trinity; that, as He at Pentecost so miraculously filled thy heart with his grace, I too may in my measure have the gifts necessary for my salvation. Therefore, I ask thee to gain for me those His seven great gifts, to dispose and excite my heart towards faith and virtue. Beg for me the gift of Wisdom, that I may prefer heaven to earth, and know truth from falsehood: the gift of Understanding, by which I may have imprinted upon my mind the mysteries of His Word: the gift of Counsel, that I may see my way in all perplexities: the gift of Fortitude, that with bravery and stubbornness I may battle with my foe: the gift of Knowledge, to enable me to direct all my doings with a pure intention to the glory of God: the gift of Religion to make me devout and conscientious: and the gift of Holy Fear, to make me feel awe, reverence and sobriety amid all my spiritual blessings.

Sweetest Father, Flower of Purity, Martyr of Charity, pray for me.

Preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation

I want to encourage the parents and the families of the children preparing for these important occasions that it is crucial to be at Sunday Mass. We are preparing the children for communion with God and preparing them for communion with the Church - with the people of the parish who will witness the faith when you are at church. Over the last few weeks it has been good to see more families at Mass, and it is great to see you; the sacrifice which you are making will be worth it! Let's all encourage the families of all the children to bring them to Sunday Mass in church. My offer to the parents still stands: if you would like a refresher course in the Catholic faith over the next few weeks, please let me know. I am praying to St Joseph every day for the children and their families.

A Synodal Parish In our recent Synod Questionnaire you mentioned the following areas as priorities for our parish and for personal encouragement.

- **The Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession** - This is celebrated on Saturdays between 10am and 1030am. If you can't make this time, please do call to make an appointment.
- **Reaching out to families, young people and children** – It is great to see and to hear children at Mass especially on Sundays; it is a sure sign that we have a future generation. I encourage parents to bring their children to Mass. At the beginning of the pandemic we were told about the importance of keeping children at school for their education. It is now very important to bring the children to church for Mass and the Sacraments to ensure that their Spiritual Development is continued.
- I have had contact with the Chaplaincy at Leek College. Please "like" and "follow" the Chaplaincy on their Facebook page, "Buxton and Leek Chaplaincy". The Parish Newsletter will be circulated to all parents of students at Painsley Catholic College in Cheadle, and I will be in contact with the Scout and Cub packs.
- **Understanding the Scriptures** - We shall continue to have Sunday Mass sheets with the Bible Readings; there has been a change for financial reasons. There will be similar sheets for Weekday Masses. There is Bible Book Club on Monday evenings on Zoom: at present we are reading the Book of Exodus. If you wish to join, please let me know.

St Mary's Parish Piety Stall has reopened! There are new stocks of First Communion and Confirmation cards; rosaries, crucifixes and Mass Cards. I am very grateful to Barbara: she will be looking after the Piety Stall after Mass on Sundays.

Parish Pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Hednesford, Sunday 3 July The annual pilgrimage Mass to the shrine of Our Lady will take place this year. If you would like to go, the coach will leave St Mary's at 12noon on Sunday 3 July. Please take your own packed lunch. The price is £16 per person. To confirm your seat, please sign the list at the back of the church and pay a deposit of £7 per person. Please place all monies in an envelope marked Hednesford and hand it to Fr Martin.

Dates for your diary

Monday 30 May	After Mass	SVP Meeting in the narthex
	After Mass	Eucharistic Ministers' meeting in church
	630pm	Bible Book Club
Saturday 4 June	1045am	Faith for Kids
Wednesday 8 June	4pm	First Confessions in church
Saturday 11 June	230pm	Sacrament of Confirmation
Saturday 18 June	230pm	Mass and First Holy Communion
20 – 24 June		Vocations' Week at St Mary's Academy

Events at St Chad's House during June

Tuesday 14 June 2022 from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm - Coffee, Cake and Chat and Wednesday 15 June 2022 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm - Guided Quiet Day. Early Booking Appreciated - Rachel the Warden on 01538 382483 or email stchadsleek@gmail.com.

Young Adults Group In your 20s or 30s? Interested in discussing and deepening your faith? Please join us for a faith-based young adults group on Tuesdays. Coolock Pastoral Centre (access from Stubbs' Gate, ST5 1LU), **7-8pm**, meeting on a fortnightly basis. We will be watching and discussing the first 8 episodes of 'The Chosen', a contemporary multi-series television drama based around the life of Jesus Christ. If you would like more details, please email fr.marco.egawhary@rcaob.org.uk. Open to Catholics and non-Catholics alike, feel free to bring a friend!"

Important notice if you or a relative will be going into Hospital at the Royal Stoke University Hospital To ensure that you or your relative receives a visit from a member of the Catholic Chaplaincy, for the next few weeks, at least, at the Royal Stoke University Hospital and County Hospital in Stafford, if you are admitted as a patient, even if they know you are a Catholic, the chaplaincy will not be automatically informed, and neither will anyone ask you if you want a visit. In order to be visited, you must contact the chaplaincy office – 01782 676400 for Stoke and 01785 887659 for County. Sacraments can still be administered at the bedside, even if someone has Covid (the office needs to be informed beforehand).

Food Bank There has been an appeal for donations of non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. Items can be left in the basket at the back of the church. Donations of perishable food items can be left at St Mary's Academy, Cruso Street.

**With prayers and best wishes for you and your family as we continue to celebrate Christ's Resurrection,
Fr Martin**